

Appln. No. 10/671,240
Amendment dated January 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed October 26, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1 1. (Currently Amended) A vegetation support, comprising:
2 an elongate pole having an interior, and top and bottom ends, said
3 pole having a longitudinal axis extending between said top and
4 bottom ends, said bottom having an opening into the interior of
5 said pole;
6 said pole having alternating first and second sets of bores
7 therethrough, said bores of said first set of bores being extended
8 in a first direction, said bores of said second set of bores being
9 extended in a second direction;
10 a plurality of elongate dowels, each dowel having opposite first and
11 second ends, and a length defined between said first and second
12 ends of said dowel;
13 each of said dowels being inserted through an associated bore of said
14 pole;
15 said bottom end of said pole having a pair of ~~diametrically opposed~~
16 elongate slots;
17 an auger member having a top turning portion and a bottom corkscrew
18 portion, said corkscrew portion being for insertion into a ground
19 surface, said turning portion of said auger member having a
20 generally T-shaped handle, said handle of said turning portion of
21 said auger member having a pair of arms; and
22 said turning portion of said auger member being inserted into said
23 opening of said bottom of said pole, each of said arms of said
24 handle of said turning portion of said auger member being
25 inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole;

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26 wherein each of said slots has a locking notch, wherein each of said
27 arms of said handle of said turning portion of said auger member
28 is inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole
29 such that each of said arms of said handle may be inserted into
30 the locking notch of the associated slot of said bottom end of
31 said pole to help hold said handle of said auger member to said
32 bottom end of said pole.

1 2. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said top has
2 an opening into the interior of said pole, wherein a cap is inserted into said
3 opening of said top end of said pole such that said cap substantially covers
4 said opening of said top end of said pole.

1 3. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said bores
2 are extended substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said
3 pole, and wherein said bores of said first set of bores are extended
4 substantially perpendicular to said bores of said second set of bores.

1 4. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said bores of
2 said first set of bores are generally equidistantly spaced apart from the
3 adjacent bores of said first set of bores.

1 5. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said bores of
2 said second set of bores are generally equidistantly spaced apart from the
3 adjacent bores of said second set of bores.

1 6. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said pole has
2 a length defined between said top and bottom ends of said pole of less than
3 about 6 feet, wherein said pole has a diameter of less than about 2 inches,
4 wherein adjacent bores of said first set of bores are spaced apart less than
5 about 12 inches from each other, wherein adjacent bores of said second set
6 of bores are spaced apart less than about 12 inches from each other, and

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7 wherein each bore of said first set of bores is spaced apart from adjacent
8 bores of said second set of bores less than about 6 inches.

1 7. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said length
2 of each of said dowels is less than about 14 inches.

1 8. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said first end
2 of each of said dowels is tapered.

1 9. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein each of said
2 dowels has an annular stop therearound, said annular stop being positioned
3 between said first and second ends of said dowel, wherein each of said
4 dowels is inserted through an associated bore of said pole such that said
5 annular stops of said dowels abut said pole.

10. (Cancelled)

1 11. (Original) A vegetation support, comprising:
2 an elongate pole being generally cylindrical and having an interior,
3 and top and bottom ends, said pole having a longitudinal axis
4 extending between said top and bottom ends, said top having an
5 opening into the interior of said pole, said bottom having an
6 opening into the interior of said pole;
7 said pole having alternating first and second sets of bores
8 therethrough, said bores being extended substantially
9 perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said pole, said bores
10 of said first set of bores being extended substantially
11 perpendicular to said bores of said second set of bores;
12 said bores of said first set of bores being generally equidistantly
13 spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said first set of bores;
14 said bores of said second set of bores being generally equidistantly
15 spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said second set of bores;

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16 wherein said pole has a length defined between said top and bottom
17 ends of said pole of less than about 6 feet;
18 wherein said pole has a diameter of less than about 2 inches;
19 wherein adjacent bores of said first set of bores are spaced apart less
20 than about 12 inches from each other, wherein adjacent bores of
21 said second set of bores are spaced apart less than about 12
22 inches from each other, wherein each bore of said first set of
23 bores is spaced apart from adjacent bores of said second set of
24 bores less than about 6 inches;
25 a plurality of elongate dowels, each dowel being generally cylindrical
26 and having opposite first and second ends, and a length defined
27 between said first and second ends of said dowel, wherein said
28 length of each of said dowels is less than about 14 inches, each
29 of said dowels having a diameter of less than about 3/8 inch,
30 said first end of each of said dowels being tapered;
31 each of said dowels having an annular stop therearound, said annular
32 stop being positioned between said first and second ends of said
33 dowel, said annular stop being positioned three-fourths of the
34 length of said dowel from said first end of said dowel;
35 each of said dowels being inserted through an associated bore of said
36 pole such that said annular stops of said dowels abut said pole;
37 a cap being inserted into said opening of said top end of said pole
38 such that said cap substantially covers said opening of said top
39 end of said pole;
40 said bottom end of said pole having a pair of diametrically opposed
41 elongate slots, the lengths of said slots extending from said
42 bottom end of said pole towards said top end of said pole
43 substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said pole, each
44 of said slots having a locking notch;
45 an auger member having a top turning portion and a bottom generally
46 helical corkscrew portion, said corkscrew portion being for

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47 insertion into a ground surface, said turning portion of said
48 auger member having a generally T-shaped handle, said handle
49 of said turning portion of said auger member having a pair of
50 arms; and
51 said turning portion of said auger member being inserted into said
52 opening of said bottom of said pole, each of said arms of said
53 handle of said turning portion of said auger member being
54 inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole
55 such that each of said arms of said handle may be inserted into
56 the locking notch of the associated slot of said bottom end of
57 said pole to help hold said handle of said auger member to said
58 bottom end of said pole.

1 12. (Previously Presented) A vegetation support, comprising:
2 an elongate pole having an interior, and top and bottom ends, said
3 pole having a longitudinal axis extending between said top and
4 bottom ends, said bottom having an opening into the interior of
5 said pole;
6 said pole having alternating first and second sets of bores
7 therethrough, said bores of said first set of bores being extended
8 in a first direction, said bores of said second set of bores being
9 extended in a second direction;
10 a plurality of elongate dowels, each dowel having opposite first and
11 second ends, and a length defined between said first and second
12 ends of said dowel;
13 each of said dowels being inserted through an associated bore of said
14 pole;
15 said bottom end of said pole having a pair of diametrically opposed
16 elongate slots;
17 an auger member having a top turning portion and a bottom corkscrew
18 portion, said corkscrew portion being for insertion into a ground

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19 surface, said turning portion of said auger member having a
20 generally T-shaped handle, said handle of said turning portion of
21 said auger member having a pair of arms;
22 said turning portion of said auger member being inserted into said
23 opening of said bottom of said pole, each of said arms of said
24 handle of said turning portion of said auger member being
25 inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole;
26 and
27 wherein each of said slots has a locking notch, wherein each of said
28 arms of said handle of said turning portion of said auger member
29 is inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole
30 such that each of said arms of said handle may be inserted into
31 the locking notch of the associated slot of said bottom end of
32 said pole to help hold said handle of said auger member to said
33 bottom end of said pole.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said top has an opening into the interior of said pole, wherein a cap
3 is inserted into said opening of said top end of said pole such that said cap
4 substantially covers said opening of said top end of said pole.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said bores are extended substantially perpendicular to said
3 longitudinal axis of said pole, and wherein said bores of said first set of
4 bores are extended substantially perpendicular to said bores of said second
5 set of bores.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said bores of said first set of bores are generally equidistantly
3 spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said first set of bores.

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1 16. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said bores of said second set of bores are generally equidistantly
3 spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said second set of bores.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said pole has a length defined between said top and bottom ends of
3 said pole of less than about 6 feet, wherein said pole has a diameter of less
4 than about 2 inches, wherein adjacent bores of said first set of bores are
5 spaced apart less than about 12 inches from each other, wherein adjacent
6 bores of said second set of bores are spaced apart less than about 12 inches
7 from each other, and wherein each bore of said first set of bores is spaced
8 apart from adjacent bores of said second set of bores less than about 6
9 inches.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said length of each of said dowels is less than about 14 inches.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein said first end of each of said dowels is tapered.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,
2 wherein each of said dowels has an annular stop therearound, said annular
3 stop being positioned between said first and second ends of said dowel,
4 wherein each of said dowels is inserted through an associated bore of said
5 pole such that said annular stops of said dowels abut said pole.